

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Remmers, please, for the committee amendments.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the committee amendments would become the bill. LB 416, as introduced by Senator Withem, would amend Nebraska's Medicare Supplement and Sickness and Accident and Insurance Minimum Standards Act for the purpose of regulating long term care insurance policies. At the Banking Committee's hearing on this bill, Senator Withem offered these amendments to the committee. Instead of amending the Medicare supplement law, the amendments would provide for a complete set of new sections which would be called the Long Term Care Insurance Act. These amendments were prepared in consultation with the Department of Insurance and were based on model long term care insurance act. The committee statements contain the section by section summary of these amendments. I would urge you the adoption...urge the adoption of these amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the committee amendments. Senator Landis, Senator Withem to follow.

SENATOR LANDIS: I will just flip-flop here. I will put my light off so Senator Withem can take my...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would like to thank Senator Remmers and the Banking Committee for favorably amending this bill. I support the committee amendments. I'll just give a very brief statement at this point and then not speak on the advancement of the bill any more than I have to if everything goes okay. Last year I was on the Health and Human Services Committee and we were dealing with long term care issues. A Task Force was appointed and the Task Force made a number of recommendations. One of those recommendations was that we support the able work that Senator Smith has done with the case management legislation in an attempt to keep people from having to go into nursing homes any longer than they needed to. A second piece of legislation that we introduced was an attempt to deal with the spin down issue, the...dealing with those individuals whose spouses become institutionalized and the current requirements that they have to become impoverished before the state will do anything to benefit those individuals in a nursing home. We introduced legislation. LB 419 has been advanced to the floor. It will not be coming to the floor this